

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/353,887	EDWARDS, STEPHEN W.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeffery A. Brier	2628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 12/01/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4-8, 27, and 30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 12/01/2008 has been entered. Claims 1, 4-8, 27, and 30 have been renumbered as claims 1-8 respectively.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jie Tan on December 02, 2008.

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The application has been amended as follows: Claim 27 has been amended as follows. Please replace claim 27 with the following amended claim 27.

27. (Currently amended) A method of storing a texture map in a single linear texture memory of a graphics accelerator, the method comprising:

- A. determining the dimension of the texture map by a texture processor;
 - B. converting by the texture processor the texture map to a one dimensional texture map if the dimension of the texture map is determined to be more than one dimensional, the one dimensional texture map having a first number of data blocks which are consecutive to each other;
 - C. locating a second number of memory locations which are located next to each other in the single linear texture memory, the first number being equal to the second number; and
 - D. storing the one dimensional texture map in the located memory locations in the single linear texture memory;
- wherein the texture map is two dimensional, step B comprising:
- B1. defining a plurality of data blocks within the texture map; and
 - B2. assigning a sequence number to each of the data blocks, the sequence numbers being consecutive numbers; and
- wherein step D comprises:
- D 1. consecutively storing each said data block of the one dimensional texture map in the located memory locations if said data blocks are consecutive to each other.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest in the context of claim 1:

wherein the graphics accelerator is configured to convert the associated texture map to a one dimensional texture map by defining a plurality of data blocks within the texture map and then assigning a sequence number to each of the data blocks; and wherein the consecutive data blocks (defined by the sequence number) of the texture map are stored consecutively in memory locations. Refer to the summary of independent claim 1 spanning pages 7 and 8 and the argument Ie spanning pages 20 and 21 of applicants 10/05/2007 Appeal Brief. Also refer to the summary of independent claim 1 spanning pages 10 and 11 and the argument Ie spanning pages 26 and 27 of applicants 02/07/2008 Appeal Brief.

Claims 27 and 30 claim similar limitations.

The claimed texture processor is defined in applicants specification at page 6 lines 11-13 as "In preferred embodiments, each texture processor 302A and 302B may be an application specific integrated circuit ("ASIC") configured in accord with conventional processes".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffery A. Brier whose telephone number is (571) 272-7656. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:30 to 4:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xiao Wu can be reached at (571) 272-7661. The fax phone Number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jeffery A. Brier/
Primary Examiner, Division 2628